AVENGERS BEYOND

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BEWARE- THE BLACK ORDER

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat--on that day, the Avengers were born! When the cosmic being known as the Beyonder once again threatens all of reality, the Avengers must become something even greater--they must become…

AVENGERS BEYOND

CAPTAIN MARVEL

CAPTAIN AMERICA

THOR

IRON MAN

BLACK PANTHER

SHE-HULK

The Avengers suspected that they were being manipulated by an unseen force and so constructed a device to detect unknown energy and force it to take physical form. After they activated the device, the Beyonder appeared and was unmasked as the hidden mastermind.

The Beyonder revealed the existence of an immensely powerful being called the Lost One. Recently freed from imprisonment, the Lost One has been hunting down all of the Beyonders. The Beyonder fled to Earth and attempted to provide the Avengers with the tools they'll need to defeat the Lost One. Tiamok, the Lost One's emissary, attacked the team while the Beyonder fled, and they are now holding her captive. Tiamok taunted the Beyonder from afar that the Black Order, the warlords of Thanos, would soon arrive, followed by the Lost One.

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THE *LOST ONE* WAITS.

HE HAS TRAVELED FAR, AFTER SPENDING EONS TRAPPED IN A PRISON CELL.

WAITING IS NOTHING NEW TO HIM.

HE WAITS.

HIS PATIENCE IS ENDLESS.

AS IS HIS *FURY.*

IF IT WASN'T FOR THE PLANETARY DEFENSE SHIELD, RECENTLY STRENGTHENED BY TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGHS THAT I, MYSELF, FACILITATED, HE'D BE HERE BY NOW.

BUT WHILE IT'S ACTIVE, HE'S LOCKED OUT.

HE CAN ONLY HOVER WHERE HE IS UNTIL HIS LAPDOGS HAVE DONE WHAT THEY WERE SENT TO DO.

TIAMOK SITS.

THIS IS MORE ARDUOUS THAN IT WOULD APPEAR.

OTHERS IN HER LINEAGE HAD SAT ON THRONES. HAD GROWN SEDATE.

COMPLACENT.

NOT SO TIAMOK.

TIAMOK IS DIFFERENT.

IMBUED WITH A FRACTION OF THE LOST ONE'S POWER, SHE *HAD* BEEN ABLE TO HEAR MY WORDS.

I'VE BEEN FORCED TO SUBSUME MYSELF FURTHER. TO HIDE MY VOICE.

SHE CAN'T HEAR ME ANYMORE.

I DON'T THINK.

THE BLACK ORDER STALKS.

BLACK DWARF.

BLACK SWAN.

EBONY MAW.

PROXIMA MIDNIGHT.

CORVUS GLAIVE.

THE WARLORDS OF THANOS. THE FIVE DREADLORDS. THE CULL OBSIDIAN. THE MIDNIGHT SLAUGHTER.

THEY GO BY MANY NAMES AND HAVE TAKEN MANY LIVES--ALWAYS IN SERVICE TO SOMEONE ELSE.

ALWAYS THE PAWNS, NEVER THE PLAYER.

BUT CHANGES ARE AFOOT. THEIR AMBITION IS GROWING.

CORVUS GLAIVE HAS A PLAN.

CAPTAIN MARVEL AND CAPTAIN AMERICA PREPARE.

THE FOUR CRYSTALS ARE THE ONLY THINGS THAT POWER THE SHIELD.

THE SHIELD IS THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS THE LOST ONE AT BAY.

THE CRYSTALS MUST BE PROTECTED.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

TELEPORTER LOG SHOWS TONY AND JEN LEAVING NEW YORK AND THOR AND T'CHALLA LEAVING WAKANDA WHEN WE CALLED THEM BUT--BUT THEY DIDN'T ARRIVE.

COULD THEY BE STUCK IN THE TELEPORTER? IF THE BLACK ORDER ACCESSED OUR SYSTEMS SOMEHOW, COULD THEY HAVE TRAPPED THEM?

HOW DOES THE TELEPORTER EVEN *WORK?*

WE NEED SOMEONE SMARTER THAN EITHER OF US TO FIGURE THIS OUT.

BAD GUYS ARE HERE.

KEEP THEM BUSY.

YOU GOT IT.

I KNEW THE *AVENGERS* COULD HELP ME.

I KNEW THE AVENGERS *WOULD* HELP ME.

HUMANITY CAN BE SMALL AND PETTY AND MEAN.

THEY CAN BE HATEFUL, SPITEFUL, UGLY, NASTY, CRUEL, HORRIBLE, SELFISH AND STUPID.

BUT THEY--AND OTHERS WHO ALLOW THEMSELVES TO LEARN FROM THEM--CAN ALSO BE *GOOD* AND *DECENT.*

THEY CAN BE THE *BEST.*

THAT'S WHAT THE AVENGERS ARE. THEY'RE THE *BEST OF HUMANITY.*

MOON GIRL, HELLO THERE.

HI, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

LOOK AT THIS ONE-- A CHILD GENIUS WHO RIDES ON THE BACK OF A DINOSAUR.

AIN'T THAT NEAT?

LUNELLA, I'M AFRAID WE'RE IN A BIT OF TROUBLE AND WE NEED YOUR HELP. WE THINK SOME OF THE AVENGERS ARE TRAPPED IN OUR TELEPORTER SYSTEM.

OH, THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM, CAPTAIN! COULD YOU PUT THE PHONE ON A SURFACE NEAR THE CONTROLS AND THEN STEP BACK?

WILL THAT DO?

THAT'S PERFECT, SIR!

SO EAGER. SO NICE. SO FULL OF PROMISE.

HUMANITY IN A NUTSHELL.

I'LL JUST NEED A MOMENT...

WOOOM

...THERE.

CAPTAIN AMERICA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

K-TANNNG

GO AHEAD, LUNELLA.

I FOUND THEM, CAPTAIN. I'M ISOLATING THEIR SIGNATURES NOW. SHOULDN'T BE MORE THAN THIRTY SECONDS.

I ALSO DETECTED A FOREIGN SIGNAL. WANT ME TO GET RID OF IT?

YES, PLEASE, LUNELLA.

IT'S DONE. THE BAD GUYS ARE LOCKED OUT AND...OKAY, THERE. THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET BACK IN.

I COULD HAVE GONE TO ANYONE IN THE UNIVERSE FOR HELP.

I COULD HAVE MADE A STAND ON ANY WORLD.

BUT NOT EVERYONE WOULD HAVE FELT COMPELLED TO LEND AID.

NOT EVERYONE WOULD HAVE CHOSEN TO SEE *BEYOND THE BEYONDER.*

THEY WOULD HAVE FIXATED ON THE OMNIPOTENCE.

THEY WOULD HAVE DECIDED THAT I, WITH ALL MY POWER, SHOULDN'T DRAG THEM INTO MY PROBLEMS.

THEY WOULDN'T HAVE SEEN THAT I WAS THE UNDERDOG.

BUT HUMANITY?

HUMANITY *LOVES* AN UNDERDOG.

OKAY, I HAVE THE AVENGERS' SIGNATURES!

COULD YOU TELEPORT THEM STRAIGHT TO MY LOCATION?

SURE THING!

THANKS, LUNELLA--YOU HAVE A GOOD DAY NOW!

YOU TOO, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

MY, THAT'S A NICE TOOTHPICK YOU CARRY.

HUMANITY LOVES TO *FIGHT BACK.*

THEY LOVE THE *BEATEN-BUT-NEVER-DEFEATED* HERO, RISING UP FROM THE FLOOR ONE LAST TIME.

DELIVERING THE KNOCKOUT BLOW TO *SAVE THE WORLD.*

WHEN THE LOST ONE ESCAPED HIS PRISON, MY FELLOW BEYONDERS SCATTERED FOR STRONGHOLDS AND SANCTUARIES ACROSS THE OMNIVERSE.

BUT FOR ME, THERE WAS ONLY EVER *ONE* DESTINATION.

DESPITE OUR PAST, I FELT SURE THAT THE AVENGERS WOULD NOT LET ME DIE ALONE.

I KNEW THEY *COULDN'T.*

THEY ARE TOO NOBLE, TOO HONORABLE. TOO *GOOD.*

THIS ISN'T THEIR FIGHT, AND YET THEY DO BATTLE WITHOUT COMPLAINT.

THEY HAVE *STEPPED UP* FOR ME.

AND NOW THAT THEIR WORLD HANGS IN THE BALANCE, IT IS *MY TURN* TO DO THE SAME FOR THEM.

THE SHIELD...IT'S *DROPPING.*

WHAT? BUT THE CRYSTALS ARE AT **FULL POWER.**

I DON'T KNOW ***HOW*** IT'S HAPPENING, BUT IT'S HAPPENING.

BEYONDER! WE KNOW YOU'RE WATCHING--WE NEED YOUR HELP!

IF THE SHIELD DROPS, THE LOST ONE WILL GET IN! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US MAINTAIN THE POWER!

THIS IS ***YOUR FIGHT,*** DAMN IT! GET DOWN HERE AND ***DO YOUR BIT!***

THE SHIELD'S *DOWN.*

JUST SO YOU UNDERSTAND, I FEEL ***REALLY BAD*** ABOUT THIS.

MASTER.

MASTER, YOU HAVE OUR UTMOST APOLOGIES FOR FAILING TO LOWER THE SHIELD AT THE AGREED-UPON TIME, BUT WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN IT UPON--

YOU DID *NOT* LOWER THE SHIELD?

WE WERE MERE MINUTES AWAY FROM DOING SO, I ASSURE--

WE THOUGHT *THE MASTER* LOWERED THE SHIELD.

A PUZZLE THAT THE LOST ONE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SOLVE WITHIN MOMENTS--ONCE HE HAS TAKEN *THE CRYSTALS* FOR HIMSELF.

YOU'RE NOT TAKING ONE STEP FARTHER.

YES, I LET THEM DOWN.

YOU COULD SAY I BETRAYED THEM.

THEY HELPED ME-- OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF THEIR *HEARTS*--AND I FAILED TO DO THE SAME FOR THEM.

BUT THERE ARE SOME UNIVERSAL TRUTHS THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED.

EVERY BETRAYAL REQUIRES TRUST.

EVERY ROBBERY REQUIRES A PRIZE.

AND EVERY TRAP REQUIRES BAIT.

THE ENERGY SIGNATURES...

I'M DETECTING THE CRYSTALS' ENERGY SIGNATURES IN **FOUR STRUCTURES** THAT HAVE APPEARED IN ORBIT AROUND THE PLANET.

THE SHIELD IS BACK UP.

BUT HOW? THE SHIELD GENERATOR IS ***HERE.*** WE DIDN'T TURN IT ON.

SO WE CAN'T TURN IT ***OFF.***

THE SHIELD IS AT 118 PERCENT. STRONGER THAN WE THOUGHT ***POSSIBLE.***

HE TRICKED US. THE BEYONDER TRICKED US. ALL OF THIS, ***EVERYTHING,*** IT WAS NEVER ABOUT BUILDING A STRONGER SHIELD.

"IT WAS ABOUT *BUILDING A PRISON.*"

SORRY, GUYS.

AVENGERS BEYOND #4

The Lost One stalks our world, the Beyonder watches from orbit and the Avengers prepare to battle...the Bootleg Avengers!

Six ordinary people, gifted with amazing powers and abilities they neither earned nor (frankly) deserve, seek to replace Earth's Mightiest Heroes at LITERALLY the worst possible time. And when the Ivory Kings show up to pass judgment on the Beyonder's last, desperate ploy to keep his race from being wiped out, things--amazingly--go rapidly downhill.

Email us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your messages "okay to print" for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

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